

Oakham Town Council

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MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2024 AT 6.30 P.M. IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllrs: P Ainsley, C. Nix, S Wadsworth, L Chatfield, C Clark, M Brookes, A Douthwaite, H Williams, P Buxton

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: C Evans (Town Clerk) and three members of the public..

Cllr P Ainsley opened the meeting and welcomed all present, especially the new councillors. He went on to state that in accordance with Oakham Town Council Standing Order 2i, and as chairman of this meeting, there is no requirement to stand when speaking unless the councillor has a desire to do so.

12/24-01 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCES:

Cllr S Pryer due to illness

Proposed Cllr Clark, seconder Cllr Wadsworth, carried.

12/24-02 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION: Reminder to Members to disclose either a Pecuniary Interest or Other Interest in any item on the agenda. The clerk cannot advise members on this. Members are personally responsible for declaring an interest. Members are respectfully advised to read the Code of Conduct for more information. Councillors are also responsible for ensuring that their Registers of Interests are up to date (within 28 days of any changes)

None

12/24-03 DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: An opportunity for members of the public to speak in accordance with Standing Orders. None.

12/24-04 UPDATE FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR: Meeting Suspended 18.31pm
Cllr from RCC spoke about the lack of funds from central government to cover care but welcomed the Town Centre revival project jointly run between RCC and OTC

Meeting Resumed 18.36pm.

12/24-05 MINUTES: To confirm the accuracy of the minutes from the meeting held on 9th October 2024 Proposed by Cllr Wadsworth, seconder Cllr Clark carried. and 23rd October 2024. Proposed by Cllr Nix, seconder Cllr Ainsley carried.

12/24-06 COUNCILLOR'S QUESTIONS: None

12/24-07 CHAIRMANS/CLERKS REPORT:

The Chairman requested that for the duration of this evening's meeting and IAW with Standing Orders para 3i, and as Chairman I waive the requirement to stand when speaking unless you wish to do so.

For each of the following events I represented OTC as mayor of Oakham

Monday, 4th November, Launch of the Ukrainian Rotary Impact Club of Rutland at The Catmose Club on South Street

Wednesday 6th November, met with market traders, early start at 07:00

Friday 8th November, Festival of Remembrance Concert in the Pavilion at the Rutland Hall Hotel

Sunday 10th November On Remembrance Sunday, following a county service held at All Saints Church in Oakham, Rutland, I laid a wreath on behalf of the town on the town's War Memorial, to honour the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice whilst in service to their country.

Monday, 11th November, I attended a service of dedication on the grounds of Oakham Castle to commemorate Armistice Day.

The Clerk reported that Millenium had now completed the move to digital phones in the office and all-important shared files were now placed on the Microsoft Cloud facility and therefore backed up regularly.

A new ROSPA report for the playgrounds had been obtained and quotes for all high / medium risk categories would be requested.

The Church Wall is in need of repair and a quote had been obtained but given the likely cost more quotes were required.

There had been more CIL income this month which had been transferred to our saving account

The lights at Willowbrook and Cutts Close have been repaired recently.

The Defib at Princess Avenue had been deployed, as a result the Defib unit had been sent for recalibration etc and was now back in service.

10/24-08 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: None

12/24-09 BANK STATEMENTS: To consider and approve the bank statements for October 2024.

Cllr M Brookes pointed out that the transfer of funds between the current and deposit should technically come to council for approval. The Chair agreed this should be investigated with LRALC. Cllr M Brookes also highlighted the risk regards the majority of

its funds being in one bank given the FSCS limit of 85k. The clerk agreed there is a risk but was concerned given that our precept is 250k and multiple banks would introduce other risks with multiple passwords etc.

Proposer Cllr Wadsworth that the accounts are accepted, seconder Cllr Clark carried.

12/24-10 FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

The town clerk reported that there had been two attempts to fraudulently remove finances from our account . The first was early in September when a fake cheque was processed and rejected by HSBC. Then in early October a Direct Debit was fraudulently set up and a week later money was withdrawn via an eBay Commerce account. The Deputy Clerk and the Town Clerk contacted the bank and closed the Direct Debit and under the Direct Debit Guarantee all the fraudulently removed funds were restored. This matter has been reported to LRALC , the Police and ICO. As a consequence of this matter all signatures and account details will now be redacted from minutes and agenda packs.

Propose that the Council agree to the transfer from HSBC to Lloyds Bank by Cllr Wadsworth seconder Cllr Williams carried.

12/24-11 WASTE BINS:

The Town Clerk reviewed a list of Waste Bins that need replacing and requested authority to spend up to the allocated budget of 5K. Cllr M Brookes suggested that the ones in the Town Centre be left unless dangerous given the ongoing project to revitalise the Town Centre, and this was accepted

Propose that the Clerk spends up to £5K on the worst bins avoiding, if possible, those in the centre by Cllr Wadsworth, seconder Cllr Williams carried.

12/24-12 SURVEY OF TENNIS AND BOWLS CLUB:

The Chair introduced this agenda item which was instigated by the proposal by the Tennis Club over the future plans for the Tennis Club Building (attached in the Agenda pack). This independent survey will check the integrity of both the Bowls and Tennis Club buildings and allow the Council to evaluate the best way forward.

Propose that a comprehensive survey takes place of both buildings at a cost of £3k by Cllr Williams, seconder Cllr Chatfield carried.

12/24-13 ELECTRICITY CONTRACT CHURCH STREET TOILETS:

The existing contract is due to end this year, and the proposal is to initiate a new one year contract with the same company but to consider both an ECO option and the Direct Debit option. It was agreed that given the Councils Green policy passed earlier to go for the ECO option and stay with a Direct Debit account.

Propose that the council continue with same company for a year with direct debit and the ECO option by Cllr Nix, seconder Cllr Clark. Carried

12/24-14 SATURDAY FREE CAR PARKING PLUS ADVERTISING:

The Chair introduced this agenda item which is a joint initiative between RCC and OTC to provide free car parking in Oakham for December 7th, 14th and 21st December i.e. the Saturday Christmas shopping days.

Cllr Nix stated that this needs to be widely publicised on the web , Facebook social media etc, which the Council agreed fully with.

Propose that there is Free Car Parking on Saturday 7th, 14th and 21st December at a total cost of £2.7K by Cllr Wadsworth, seconder Cllr Clark. Carried

12/24-14 REFURBISHMENT OF THE CHURCH STREET TOILETS:

The Chair highlighted that at this stage this item was only to be noted , since the three tender quotes had only just been received.

12/24-14 EMPTY SHOPS ON THE HIGH STREET:

Cllr Wadsworth introduced the idea of decorating empty shop windows for Christmas and RCC could provide artists. The problem is in getting the landlords agreement in time. The new working Group will be Cllrs Brookes and Wadsworth

Propose that a new working group is formed with a budget of £1500 by Cllr Nix, seconder Cllr Chatfield. Carried

12/24-14 DOG POO BINS PRINCESS AVENUE:

Cllr Wadsworth requested the replacement of the dog bins at Princess Avenue, two of which were in a poor state of repair.

Propose that all three dog bins are replaced with normal bins by Cllr Brookes seconder Cllr Nix. Carried. Cllr Williams recorded as against

Meeting Finished 20:14pm

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS: 11th December 2024

Signed.....



Date.....

11 Dec 2024